**A Prayer on Remebrance Day**

God our Creator,

who from eternity past has existed in perfect peace and unity within yourself,

Father, Son, and Spirit

 three-in-one without conflict, without injury, without hatred

where your eternal love, justice and holiness rule your heavenly home.

We your children experience all the violence of sin in this world.

We confess that our hearts daily harbour hatreds small and large.

 We recognize the root of conflict in this world is not politics, or economics, or ethnic rivalry.

 These are the symptoms of our collective selfishness and individual sinfulness.

We confess that we have not allowed your perfect law to live in our hearts.

You revealed to us your heart of perfect peace when you said we should “love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.” [Matt. 5:44]

You are the great reconciler, the great peacemaker who took on yourself the price for peace with your rebellious creations.

You came into this fallen world and suffered all hatred and violence in weakness, overcoming evil with the sacrifice of yourself.

You “became our peace” [Eph. 2:14] and tore the veil between us and yourself, and demolished the walls between us and our neighbours.

Father God, you are peace, so we pray for an end to war.

We pray for the sanity of your Word and its call to each person and each nation to be transformed from the spirit of “an eye for an eye” to the love that extends even to enemies.

We pray that where selfish interest and injustice have promoted the cheapening of life and the spread of violence that your Spirit of peace would heal and convict, enlighten and change hearts.

Almighty Creator, we still live in the time when your perfect peace has not yet extended to all people. Nations continue to rise against their neighbours. Governments oppress their citizens and citizens attack their governments or their fellow citizens. So today we pause to remember those who have rendered service to earthly kingdoms for the protection of their homelands.

Those who serve in war and in peacekeeping missions live separated from family, in hard conditions and continual danger so that we may enjoy our families in comfort and safety. Many who serve have died in the air, on the sea, and on battlefields of the world: places of fear, pain, and horror. We thank you for their sacrifice. Our freedom to pray undisturbed is a gift to us from earlier generations who resisted tyranny and military aggression. We now honour them with our silent remembrance.

[minute of silence]

Now, as we look to the future, may we be ambassadors of your heavenly kingdom. You said, “blessed are the peacemakers” for they will be called your children [Matt. 5:9]. And, “Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.” [James 3:18] May every relationship, every home, every school, every workplace and every nation experience your peace as your Spirit fills your church. We look forward expectantly to the day when your peace reigns completely, when tanks are melted down to make tractors, when war is known no more.

The Spirit and the Bride say “come.” [Rev. 22:17] Come, our Prince of Peace.

Amen.